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News in brief

Summer reading at the Fred C. Fischer Library

The summer reading programs will start soon at the Fred C. Fischer Library in Belleville. The READ-TO-ME program, for pre-school aged children 3-6, will take place at 7 p.m. from June 18-July 23. Sign-up will start on June 2. The schedule will include: The Music Lady on June 18, All About Insects on June 25, Basically Bats on July 2, Magic with Ming on July 9, Tonya "Touchdown" Dallas on July 16 and Mr. Wing Magic Show on July 23. For elementary aged children—ages 7-11—the program will take place at 11 a.m. from June 17-July 22. Sign-up will start on June 2. The schedule will include: Joel Tracey, The Juggle Bug Comedy Show on June 17; Mark Rosenthal's Animal Magic on June 24; Naturalist Endeavors on July 1; Bill Martin's Magic Show on July 8; Gordon the Magician on July 15 and the final awards ceremony on July 22. Prizes, like tickets to Cedar Point, will be awarded. The teen summer reading—for ages 12-18—will take place at 7 p.m. from June 17-July 22. Sign-up to start on June 2. The schedule includes: The Local Teen Band at the Library on June 9, video game tournament awards and prizes on June 16, Make Your Own Hemp Necklaces on June 23 and a Movie at The Library on June 30. For more information about any of the programs, contact Tara Moffett, the youth services librarian, at (734) 699-3291.

Community concert

The 'Kaleidoscope' concert will take place at 7 p.m. on June 6 at the Risen Christ Lutheran Church in Plymouth and, will feature musical teams from six different area churches. Refreshments will start at 7 p.m. and the concert will start at 7:30 p.m. There will also be a children's nursery and activities. For more information, contact Lisa Hartage at (248) 202-7032.

Space available for Girl Scout Camp

The Girl Scouts of Huron Valley Council are accepting girl's ages 5-17-years-old to attend the day or overnight camps at Camp Linden in Livingston County. Camp season is from June 22-Aug. 16. Transportation is available from Ann Arbor to Brighton. All girls can attend, whether they have been a Girl Scout or not. To enroll, call 1 (800) 49-Scout.

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Suspects arrested in child sex sting

Andrea King
Staff Writer

More than three-dozen suspects were arrested in Van Buren Township recently as a result of phase two of an Internet child predator sting by township police and Wayne County sheriffs.

The operation ended with 38 arrests from Michigan and one from New Jersey. The men ranged from 19 to 57. Phase one was a three-day sting in March at a staged house in the township, while phase two targeted individuals who chatted online with volunteers posing as minors, but didn't travel to the decoy location, according to officials.

"This Internet predator sting was unique. Most focus only on those predators that traveled, but not with this project. If you solicit a child for sex or send sexually graphic material to a youngster, you don't escape prosecution just because you never got off your couch," said Attorney General Mike Cox. "Identifying this type of Internet predator can be difficult, but the extra effort is worth it to protect children from those who seek to harm them by using the Internet."

Police said more than nine special agents from the attorney general's office worked to identify and arrest the suspects. Typically, law enforcement only arrests those individuals who actually travel to a place, but this is the first to identify, arrest and charge individuals who used the Internet to arrange sex with a minor, but didn't arrive for the meeting with the child.

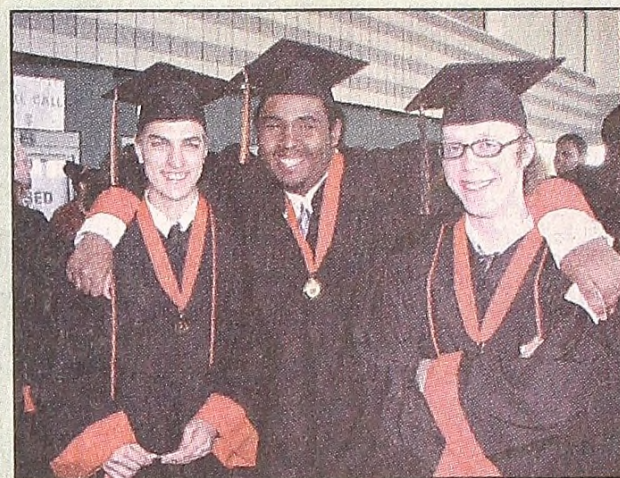
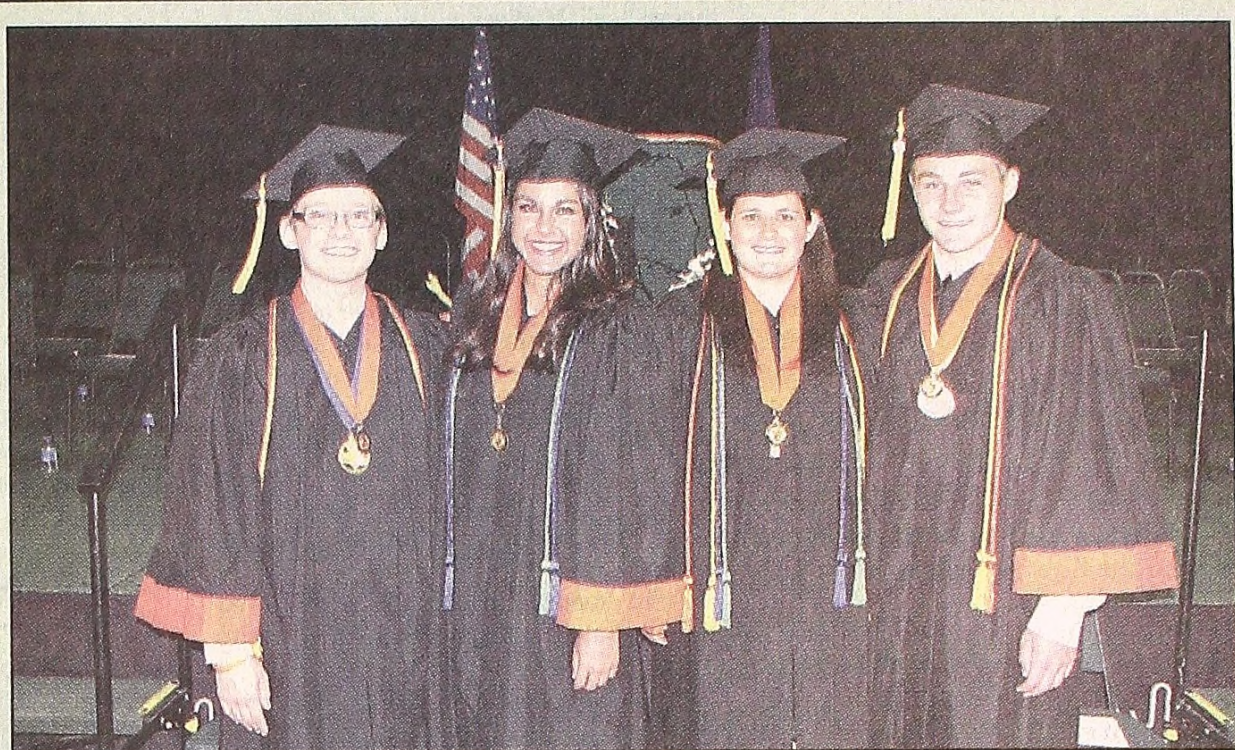
"The first 27 suspects were the ones who showed up at the house, then several others sent things over the web, but never showed up," said Jerry Champagne, director of the public safety department for Van Buren Township. "One guy didn't even show up in March because two days prior to our sting he was arrested in Macomb County for the same thing."

"Another guy actually contacted a girl and convinced her to go to Europe with him, but he was arrested because the girl's mom saw it on the computer," Champagne added.

The 11 individuals have been charged with using the Internet to solicit sex from a minor, as well as disseminating sexually explicit material to a minor. A criminal charge is merely an accusation and defendants are presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty, officials said.

"This two-phase operation has been an unqualified success and taken countless children out of harm's way," said Sheriff Warren Evans. "The arrests made during phase two are equally as important as those made at the sting house because each suspect's ultimate goal has been the same: sex-

See Sting, page 3



Graduation honors

The Class of 2008 at Belleville High School graduated recently at the Eastern Michigan University convocation center with 405 students in the graduating class. Valedictorian this year was Alexander Brown, salutatorian was Steven Davenport, class president was Lacey Marcotte and class vice-president was Ana Campos (all pictured). Also pictured are students Daniel Henning, Philip McMurtry and Mathew McGill.

Belleville Strawberry Festival set to begin

Andrea King
Staff Writer

It's almost ripe and ready for the 32nd annual Belleville National Strawberry Festival.

This year the event, which takes place June 13-15, will include live entertainment, a car show, pageants, carnival rides, homemade crafts and food, a parade and other daily events.

The citywide festival will have a new location this year—Belleville High School—and will also include other old favorites, such as St. Anthony's Church, Trinity Episcopal Church, Belleville Presbyterian Church and Victory Park. It will be open from noon to 10 p.m. on Friday, June 13, from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. on Saturday, June 14 and from noon to 7 p.m. on Sunday,

People can expect it to be a little smaller, but it will mean easy walking in a more intimate setting and closer to the carnival.

Joan Bodnar
Festival Director

June 15.

The Belleville National Strawberry Festival has been all about strawberry themes, fundraising and community spirit since it began in 1976, according to officials.

Festival Director Joan Bodnar

said although different this time around, the festival will include a variety of daily events including: the DuPont NASCAR vehicle, the Colgate Country Jam, the Strawberry Idol contest, children's activities, food vendors and more entertainment on the way.

"People can expect it to be a little smaller, but it will mean easy walking in a more intimate setting and closer to the carnival," she said.

New this year will be the DuPont NASCAR vehicle with a computerized car that people can drive on a simulated track, Bodnar said.

"People can watch, too, while the others are driving. This is something that all ages will like,"

See Festival, page 3

Airport expansion plan delayed - again

Molly Tippen
Staff Writer

Both sides of the dispute about the expansion of the Detroit Metropolitan Airport are claiming victory after the Wayne County Airport Authority voted to hold off on voting on the controversial master plan for a second time.

The board, which met late last week, was expected to approve the plan, but decided to delay the vote until July.

"We're committed to informing the public and being as transparent in our process as possible," said Scott Wintner, and airport authority spokesman.

"If there are questions about our plan, the board will wait to vote until every question is answered... but eventually, there is going to have to be a decision."

Meanwhile, in Romulus, city officials saw the second delay as a prudent move by the authority to quell loud opposition to the present plan, which would cost the city \$114 million in assessed value, according to city estimates.

"This is a victory for the citizens of Romulus and all our neighboring communities who stood up to the authority and asked tough questions to protect our communities," said Romulus Mayor Alan Lambert.

The Airport Master Plan, if implemented, would effectively reduce the size of the City of Romulus by about 7 percent, and potentially by 3,500 residents.

The proposed runway remains the most controversial part of the plan because many businesses and homes would have to be demolished to provide adequate space.

The toll on the city would be the loss of the 350-unit Sky Harbor Apartments, 30 industrial buildings, 18 commercial buildings, at least one subdivision, and Merriman Elementary School. In all, about 800 residences would be demolished, and the city could stand to lose almost \$1 million in assessed revenue, according to the city.

The school district could lose as much as \$1.7 million in revenue.

The three-phase master plan outlines an expansion that would take until 2027 to complete.

Romulus, along with several other western Wayne County and downriver Communities, opposes the plan.

An independent analysis indicated that 2004 numbers were used

See Airport, page 3

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World travelers

Elwell Elementary School hosts 'International Day'

Andrea King
Staff Writer

Hannah Cole, a third grade student at Elwell Elementary School, didn't know she'd be able to take a trip around the world in only 3 hours.

"I really enjoyed Egypt because of the delicious bread and dip," said the 8-year-old. "I think Ireland was my favorite though. We learned about the history of potatoes and the diseases that happened there with them."

Elwell was the site of an 'International Day' last week, which offered 11 different countries and a learning opportunity for the entire school. Flight 17601 (Elwell's address) took off for three days during which students learned about the culture, food, dress and customs of other countries, according to Principal Nick Maniaci.

"They enjoy learning about all those things," he said. "The students receive passports and tickets to get to each country and even hear the flight announcement before each trip."

Countries included: Spain, China, Ireland, Nigeria, Mexico, Central African Republic, Turkey, Egypt, Netherlands, Japan, and Sweden. Students were stamped in each

country and recorded their lessons in a travel journal, too.

There was even a border patrol for students who weren't paying attention or if they got in trouble, school officials said.

"Luckily we didn't have anyone there though," said Maniaci.

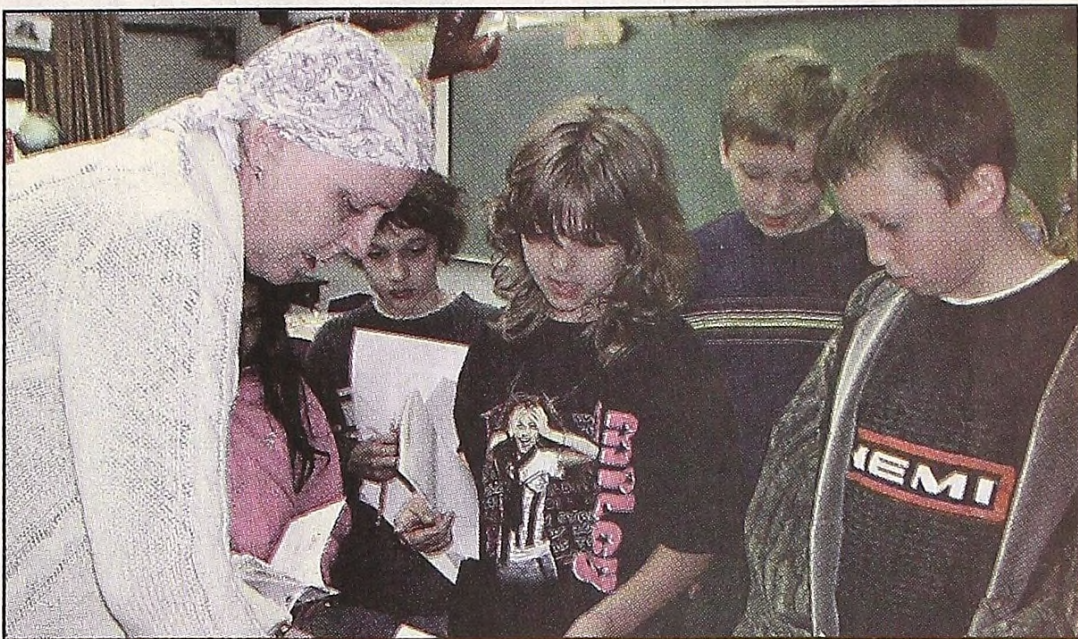
In China, students heard about chicken feet cuisine, while in Ireland, teacher Val Peters talked about her Irish family history and traditions.

"My family makes soda bread just like this and I brought this sweater back from Ireland," she said.

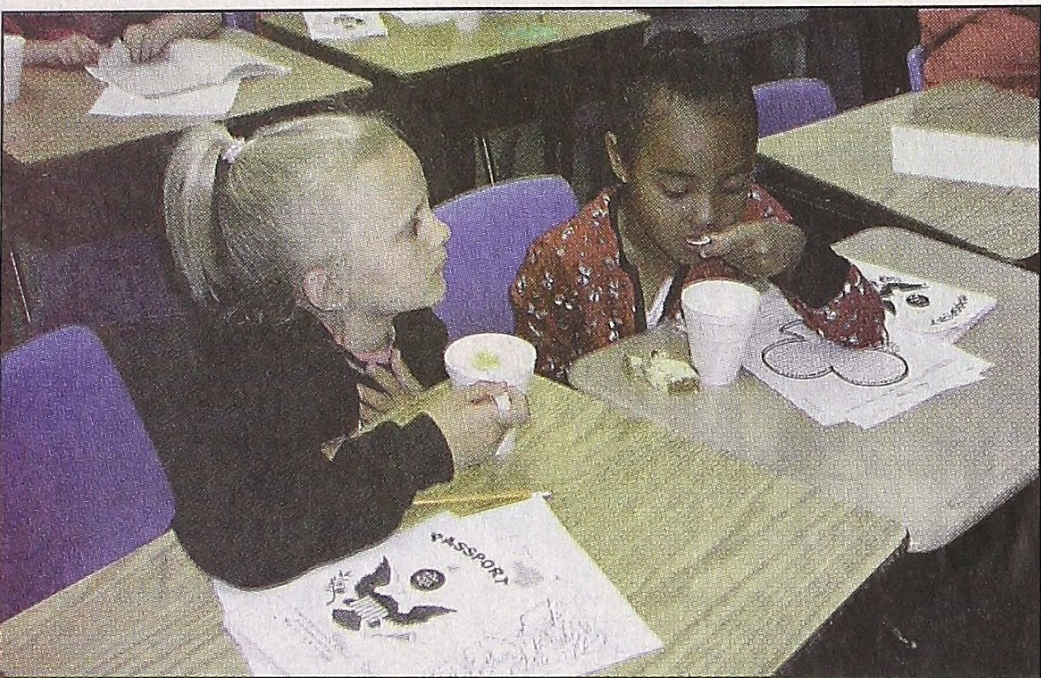
Other stops showed the fourth largest country: Nigeria, the governance of Mexico, the attire in Turkey, mummies in Egypt, cheese in Sweden, windmills and wooden shoes in the Netherlands to no shoes in Japan. Teacher Julie Harden, who actually lived in the Central African Republic while in the Peace Corps, showed the students things, like how food is traditionally prepared.

Third grader Jenna Bortell said she loved the international fair because she loves to travel.

"They (countries) were all my favorite," she said.



After landing in each country, teachers collected the boarding pass and tickets from each student.



Students enjoyed soda bread and soup in 'Ireland'.

Airport police award top honors to graduate

Molly Tippen
Staff Writer

A native of Westland was recognized by the Wayne County Airport Authority Police for graduating at the top of his class.

Airport Police Ofc. Ian Wong joined Thomas Zahina of Milan in graduating at the top of his class at the Wayne County Regional Police Training Academy in Garden City. The men graduated following recent 16-week training programs conducted by the academy.

Both Wong and Zahina received commendation for their outstanding achievement from the Airport Authority Board members at their meeting this afternoon at the Westin Detroit Metropolitan Airport in Romulus.

"The Authority is exceptionally proud of officers Wong and Zahina for individually finishing at the top of their classes," said Airport Authority CEO Lester Robinson. "Public safety and security is the Airport Authority's top priority, and we applaud both officers for their commitment to excellence."

Wong, a two-year veteran of the Airport Police, received the Michigan Commission

on Law Enforcement Standards Outstanding Performance Award for finishing top among his May 2008 Academy class of 39 students.

Zahina, a one-year police veteran, was recognized by the academy in late 2007 with two honors: the Academic Achievement Award and the Douglas Pederson Scholarship Award for his top performance among his 38-member November 2007 Academy class.

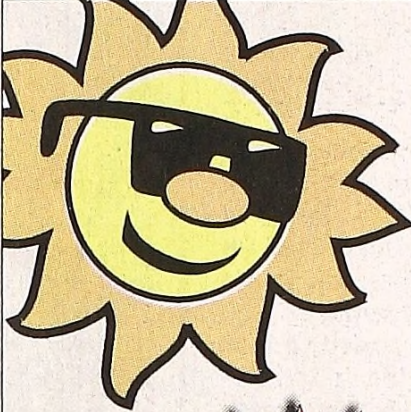
The Wayne County Airport Authority Police Department is an independent police agency responsible for law enforcement at both Detroit Metropolitan Airport (DTW) and Willow Run Airport.

Both officers are currently assigned to the Airport Police Communications Unit. Following their outstanding performance in the Academy, both officers have requested and are awaiting assignments to the patrol unit.



Quilt-a-thon

Quilters joined needles recently to sew for the Habitat for Humanity Quilt-A-Thon in Belleville. More than 34 members of the Western Wayne County Quilt Guild, along with other residents, worked to make eight quilt tops to be donated to the Washtenaw County Habitat For Humanity for 2009. Another four quilts will be donated to the Wayne County Plymouth office, too. Quilters enjoyed lunch and prizes and fun, organizers said.



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UPCOMING EVENTS

'Purple Gang' strikes in Belleville

The 'Purple Gang' will strike in Belleville for interactive murder mystery dinner theater event based on Detroit's own purple gang capers, presented by the Belleville Area Museum Historical Society. Dore Productions will present the show June 3 at Johnny's Grill in Belleville and although it's sold-out, another will take place on July 8. Donations are \$35 and include the murder mystery, dinner and donation. All proceeds will go toward the museum. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. with a cash bar and murder will start at 6:30 p.m. Seating is limited so advance purchase is recommend. For more information, contact Cathy Horste at (734) 697-3662.

Music in The Park starts

The Belleville Music in the Park series will start at 3 p.m. on June 22 at Victory Park. It will then take place each Sunday until Aug. 17. The concerts are free. For a show schedule, contact the Belleville Area Council For The Arts at (734) 697-8123.

Summer music, movie nights begin

Van Buren Township will host the summer music nights series and movie nights from 7-8:30 p.m. starting July 11 at Van Buren Park. The shows are free except for a \$3 park entry fee. The other dates include: July 18, July 25, Aug. 1, Aug. 8, Aug. 15 and Aug. 22. Crafts, music and concessions will also be available. Glowworks products will also be sold. If a rainout occurs, concerts will take place at Belleville High School. Movie rainouts will take place at the Tyler Road community center. For more information call (734) 699-8921.

Suspect shooting probed

Molly Tippen
Staff Writer

Michigan State Police detectives are investigating a shooting involving a Romulus police officer that occurred on May 21.

The shooting occurred at 2:19 p.m. near Merriman Road when Romulus patrolmen attempted to make a traffic stop.

The traffic stop was conventional enough until the suspect vehicle, with three occupants inside, fled the scene, according to police reports. The officers gave chase until the vehicle finally pulled over on Merriman Road, according to police.

Once the officers exited their patrol vehicle, the suspect vehicle then suddenly backed up, attempting to strike the officers, according to a statement released by Romulus police.

Shots were fired by the officers, and one of the three suspects was struck. All of the suspects were taken to an areas hospital, where they were treated.

Det. Lt. John Leacher of the Romulus Police Department could not provide specifics about the incident except to say that the suspect's wound was not considered life-threatening.

"My understanding is that he will recover completely," he said.

Generally, it is customary for another police agency to investigate officer-involved shootings to avoid the appearance of impropriety.

"The only thing that we would investigate is whether all direct orders were followed," he said.

It's unclear if any of the suspects have been charged in the incident. Det. 1st Lt. Daryl Hill of the Michigan State Police Northville Post is conducting the investigation. He did not return calls seeking comment for this story Tuesday.

King seeks third supervisor term

Andrea King
Staff Writer

After more than 29 years in Van Buren Township, Cindy King said she wants to continue to bring her experience to the area.

"Experience is something that seems to be de-valued, but experience does matter," she said. "How different government agencies interact, how bills get passed; I think I've been dedicated to the community and I take my role seriously."

"It's challenging, a lot of hours and a commitment, but I like that I can influence the community I live in," she added. "Sometimes problems are relatively easy, but some big challenges are growth, service and determining what the community wants, but I like planning for the future and the variety."

King, who is completing her second term as township supervisor, will defend her seat against newcomers Paul White, Ann Frances Fioritto and Larry Fix.

"I was born and raised in the community," said 47-year-old King.

She started working in the clerk's office in 1978, was the deputy clerk in 1988, the clerk in 1992 and became township supervisor in 2000.

"I tried to get out of government at one point, but it wasn't as interesting to me," she said. "I didn't necessarily aspire to do this at first, but I enjoy the work and what I do."

Her top concerns for the township, she said, are finances, economic development and continued service. She said a major problem is the decline in revenue streams.

"The national housing market is at a stand-still," said King. "If we still got the same amount of state-shared revenue we did in 2001, we'd have about \$7.2 million so we're doing more with less. Our tax base has continued to grow, but the downside is the subdivisions that



Cindy King

haven't completed will dominate the agenda for the next two to three years."

"Can we provide what people want? We may hear from some, but not necessarily the majority perspective," she added.

Staying abreast of finances, making sure the township is getting a good return on value and the continued budget process are all ways to help improve the economic challenges. Cost savings measures, such as lower energy usage, vacant positions and a decrease in overtime, are also in the works. As for economic development, King said the Aerotropolis project and bringing in new business to the region will benefit.

"We know we need to brand the region so businesses will come in, locally we've had businesses help the economy because we still have the ability to add commercial development," she said.

King said she feels officials have done their job to help keep the community safe and provide service.

"We have money in the bank because of the landfill fund, which has helped us run township hall and we provide services, like free garbage collection for our residents," she said.

Payne wants third clerk term

Andrea King
Staff Writer

Institutional knowledge and enthusiasm is what incumbent Joannie Payne, who will defend her seat as clerk for a third term, will bring to the position she said.

"I love what I do and I love working in government," said Payne. "I started out as an election worker at the precincts so I've seen it and gone through it all the way from hand-done elections to computerized. It's a constantly evolving, changing role."

Payne will be one of three candidates Van Buren Township Clerk voters will find on the ballot at the Aug. 5 primary. She will face Felicia Paris-Brooks and Leon Wright.

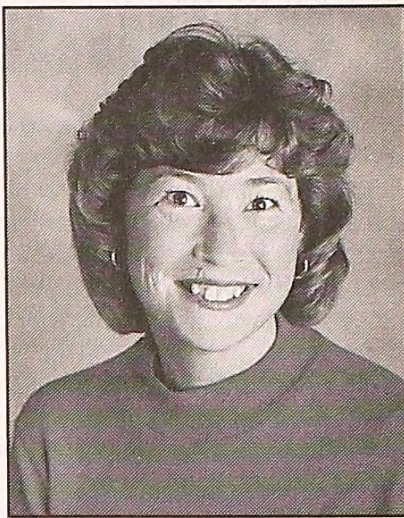
Payne, 46, has lived in the township since 1972, where she and her husband, Robert, have raised their two sons. She comes from a political background, she said, which sparked her interest to start in 1981 as an election clerk. She's been in local government since, including becoming deputy clerk in 1996 and township clerk in 2000 and 2004.

"It's a great community and I love it here," Payne said.

"I first ran for clerk because I felt it was appropriate and I didn't want to look back someday and think 'what if'," she added. "I had the government experience and I thought it was worth a try. It worked out well for me and the staff."

She said her main concerns are development or lack-of, working within the schools and working with the state on the continuing expanding roles.

"Growth is an issue because all this time the factor was Van Buren was ideally suited for that, but now with the economic turn, it's declined. However, growth will be the number one issue we'll



Joannie Payne

continue to deal with," she said.

"Working with the schools is also imperative. I would be willing to endorse the school bond because if the schools fail, the community fails. Just because my kids are grown doesn't mean I don't care. I'm still a resident and I want a viable community."

Working with the state on the changing election process is constant, Payne said.

"Trying to do more and maintain what we have when revenue is continuing to drop is going to be a challenge not just for Van Buren, but for everyone," she said.

Payne said changes in how elections are and will be run in the future and other areas keep her and the staff busy. She would like to continue to be a part of that, she said.

"I'm not afraid to tell people the answers even though it may not be something they want to hear," she said. "I was an accountant before and an election worker, so there isn't a job in the clerk's office I haven't done. That brings a positive to the position."

"I would also love a better voter turnout," she added. "Voting is how you get your say and influence how things go."

Festival

FROM PAGE 1

she said.

On Friday, visitors can watch the annual Strawberry Prince and Princess Contest at South Middle School. The schedule will also include a performance by Karen Newman at 6 p.m., Devin Scillian and the Arizona Sun at 8 p.m. on Friday, along area singers and groups performing in the WYCD Colgate Country Showdown on Saturday.

The Rotary Club Annual Pancake Breakfast—a festival tradition from the beginning—will take place from 8-11 a.m. at the Belleville High School cafeteria. The parade will then follow at 11 a.m. and include floats, area politicians, organizations and musical entertainment.

The festival will also include the annual Cinnamon's Father's Day Car Show from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Victory Park.

Carnival hours will be from 5-10 p.m. on Thursday, 5-10 p.m. on Friday, noon to 10 p.m. on Saturday and noon to 8 p.m. on Sunday.

The Belleville Strawberry Festival offers free admission—except for the carnival—and a free shuttle service to all the festival locations from Meijer. For more information, call the festival hotline at (734) 697-3137.

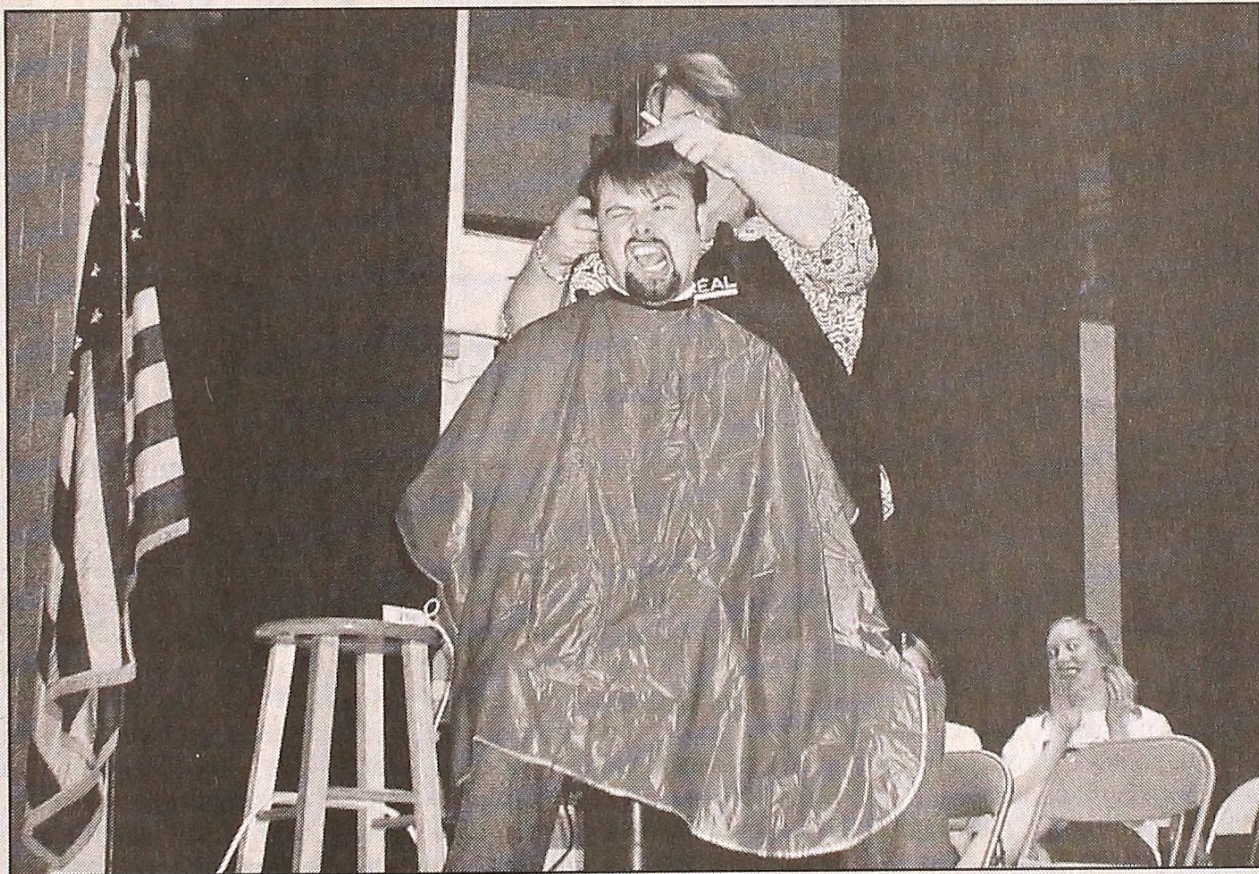
"It's going to be different, but once visitors come, it will be much-easier walking and atmosphere," said Bodnar. "It's a learning experience for us, too, but we can always make it bigger and better next year."

Sting

FROM PAGE 1

ual gratification through the exploitation of children."

Since the start, the Cox's Child and Public Protection Unit has arrested 195 Internet sexual predators, they said. For more information, visit www.michigan.gov/ag for tips on safe Internet usage for children. Citizens can also report suspected Internet child predators at (313) 456-0180.



Well wonders

A check for \$7,700 was presented to Lara Wineman, a representative from the African Well Fund Organization on Tuesday for the fundraising efforts of the seventh grade students at North Middle School in Belleville. Teachers Ron Hoephner and Steve Hudock also shaved their heads, fulfilling a promise they made if the students surpassed their goal.

Airport

FROM PAGE 1

for the plan, and that current figures on passenger traffic increases — which would trigger the plan into existence — could be off base by 30 percent.

Airport officials said the numbers they provided for projected air travel are on target, and that further capacity is needed at the airport.

The plan initially came up for a vote in March, and the decision was made to conduct additional public forums regarding the plan. Wintner said he believes the public information process has adequately informed citizens.

Congressman John Dingell (D-Dearborn) also wrote a letter to the authority, asking for answers to several questions.

The expansion could have an economic impact on the area, however Airport estimates indicate the

plan could create numerous new jobs. The plan is estimated to cost nearly \$3.6 billion—much of which would be spent directly within the local community.

Lambert said he was glad the authority wanted to vote.

"We thank our citizens for their support and we thank the airport authority board for continuing to work to get all the answers we need," he said.

The vote will take place on July 24.

OPINION

Political games over annexation must end

An issue on the August primary ballot in Livonia should be of concern to voters everywhere.

Voters in that municipality will decide whether the 414-acre former Northville Psychiatric Hospital site should be annexed to Livonia. Northville Township voters—save the eight that ‘live’ on the property—will have no say in the issue, which will have a drastic long-term impact on their community.

This was made possible by a loophole in the state legislation regarding annexation—one that essentially gives township officials and township residents no say in the issue—as well as a duplicitous move on the part of REIS, a partnership between Real Estate Interests, Inc. and Schostak Brothers Construction. They applied for permission to install security guards on the site on a 42-hour, seven days a week basis in order, they said, to help improve security on the site. The guards registered to vote and initiated the annexation process.

Essentially, what this will do is disenfranchise more than 20,000 township residents.

This is just one of the tactics the developer has turned to in order to assault the rights of township residents and township officials, who seek only to promote smart growth and maintain their community standards.

It's easy to see why the general public gets fed up with our government. It'd be easy to see why officials in Northville Township can feel betrayed by the Republican Party—despite the work of Patterson.

State legislators have tried to close this loophole with varying degrees of success. State Rep. Marc Corriveau (D-Northville) introduced legislation that was approved overwhelmingly in the House. State Sen. Bruce Patterson (R-Canton) introduced legislation in the Senate that was defeated 20-18 after four Republican senators—Alan Cropsey, Valde Garcia, Mark Jansen, and Wayne Kuipers—voted alongside the Democrats.

Let's be clear here. This is not Patterson's fault. He has worked tirelessly on the issue since it first came up. He's the kind of guy that would have tried to close the loophole even if the Northville Township situation hadn't come up, too—he

has dedicated his efforts to improving the rights of township governments dating back to his days on the Wayne County Commission. A bombastic individual, he has expressed his frustration about the issue in the past.

The House version of the plan is currently in committee in the Senate. Cropsey has filed a motion to reconsider Patterson's legislation in the Senate, but that vote has been postponed.

What is the issue here? Well, perhaps it is the \$20,000 that Schostak contributed to the Senate Republican Campaign Committee, according to campaign finance reports. The first \$10,000 contribution took place on March 17, 2008. The second, on April 18—four days prior to the Senate vote on the issue.

It's easy to see why the general public gets fed up with our government. It'd be easy to see why officials in Northville Township can feel betrayed by the Republican Party—despite the work of Patterson.

This legislation is important—not just for the here and now, but for the future, as well—and it appears that the only thing holding it up is political gamesmanship at its very worst.

Let's put all that aside and do what's right for the state, and our local communities.

Proposed airport plan slows

Slowly but surely, a proposed expansion plan at Metro Airport is losing steam.

Residents, elected officials and business leaders are leading the charge to slow down the approval of this expansion, which would allegedly only be implemented if and when the need is there.

The plan essentially calls for the construction of a fifth parallel runway at the airport, but at a cost that would be staggering to the City of Romulus and the region as a whole.

Hundreds of homes would have to be razed, thousands of residents displaced. The city would lose a lot of land—and revenue, too. And for what? Something that is most likely not needed to begin with.

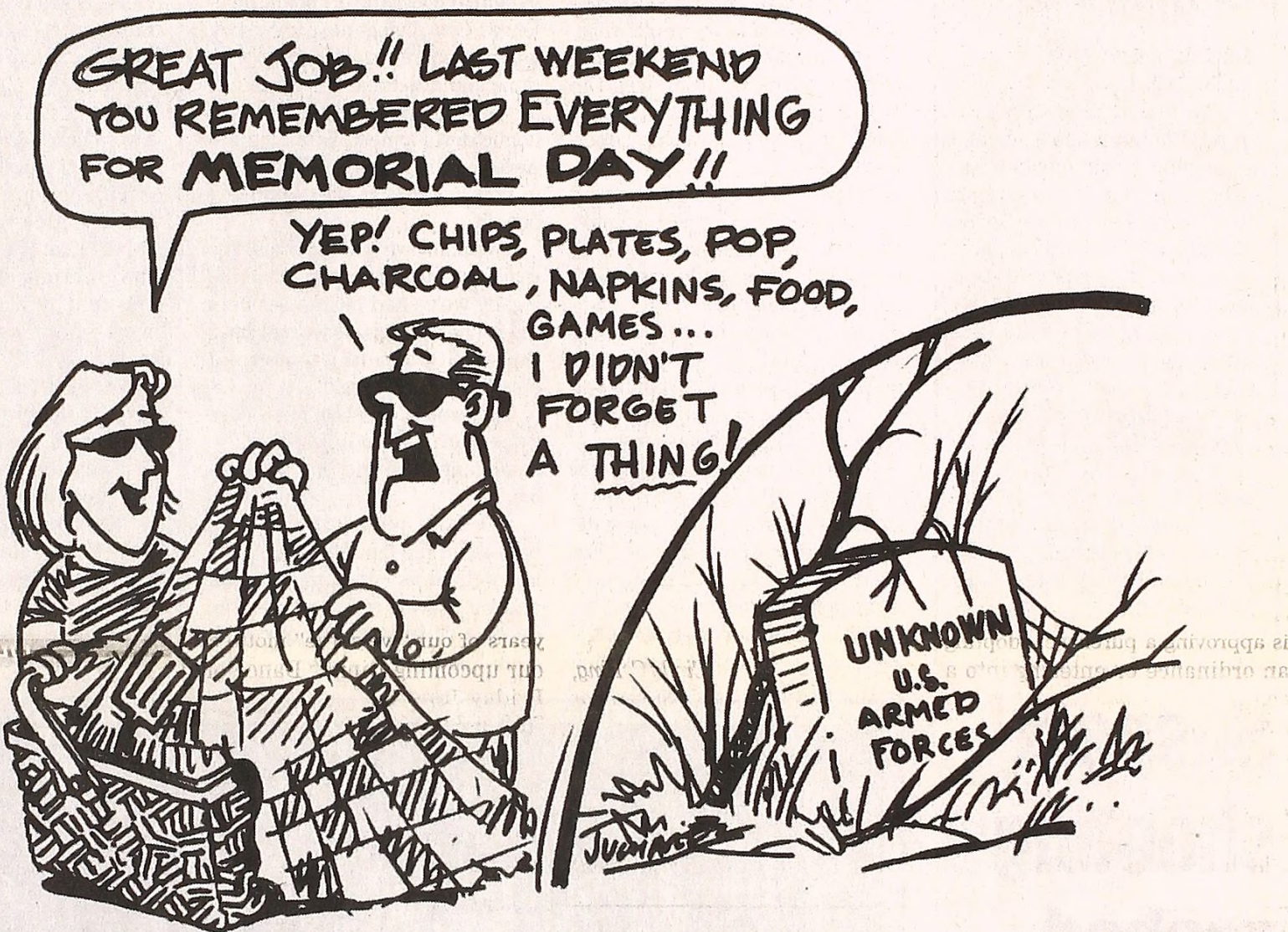
It is not always easy to fight something that many think of as a ‘done deal,’ but opponents of this plan have proved that it can be done.

They followed a simple, yet not often common, approach: get a lot of help from your friends.

And so Romulus Mayor Alan Lambert solicited support from surrounding communities and generated a letter of opposition signed by the mayors of all the adjoining communities. He sought help from Congressman John Dingell. He urged residents to go out and speak at public hearings; many took his advice and still others went on their own volition.

It seems to be working. A plan once described as inevitable has been pushed back until the fall.

This is a good thing not only for Romulus but for the surrounding communities, as well. There's a better way to plan for the future. We shouldn't always be looking at creating more at the expense of a community; we should look first at ways to do things smarter, to work together and ensure we have the best plan possible for local and regional interests.



An important court victory for all of us

I was one of the relative few that defied the increasing cost of gasoline and headed Up North for the holiday weekend.

I normally don't like to travel on holiday weekends because everyone else does and I'm not the most patient guy in the world when I get behind the wheel of a car and I know there's a campfire and a lake-fed breeze ahead of me.

This year I took a look at the impending ‘silly season,’ a summer chock full of elections from here to the county line and back and decided I need a little breather before we delved fully into our campaign coverage.

Even cut off from ‘the real world’ as I was, I managed to hear about some important news that affects all of us, no matter where we live, what we do or what we care about.

It came on Friday afternoon and I could tell from the way the wind whipped through the other end of the phone that the caller—who shall remain nameless—wasn't in the office either. He wanted to let me know the outcome of a hearing that took place earlier that day, when a judge granted a protective order that essentially meant two concerned Northville Township residents wouldn't have to be deposed as part of the ongoing litigation between the township and the developmental partnership of Real Estate Interests and Schostak Brothers Construction (REIS).

For those that hadn't heard about this, here's a quick run-down. In order to voice their concerns about the development proposed for the former Northville Psychiatric Hospital site, town-

ship residents Laurie Marrs and Carol Poenisch formed the Citizens for Northville (CFN) a grass roots group designed to promote smart development throughout the township and voice opposition to a plan to annex the land to Livonia.

The developer subpoenaed them both, ordering them to come in for a deposition and, what's worse, to bring along all the correspondence between themselves and their elected representatives—in the township and in Lansing.

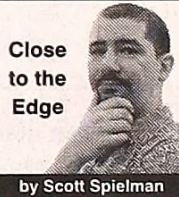
When I first heard of this, I was outraged. From the words that came out of my mouth, anyone listening would probably think I was driving in heavy traffic or something. Here you've got two companies that already have more money than God trying to bully a

couple of residents for daring to voice their opposition to their plans.

America, I said, is under attack. Fortunately, saner heads prevailed. The judge ruled in favor of the CFN founders, admonished the developers and, just prior to a long holiday in which we reflect on those who have fought and died for our freedom, helped secure the most important of those rights—that to speak our mind.

Maybe you don't live in Northville or Livonia and maybe you don't think you care one way or another whether a couple of residents get hauled downtown to talk in front of a group of high-priced lawyers.

You should. This was an important victory for all of us.



Close to the Edge

by Scott Spielman

The suspicious sound of silence

The search for a new Van Buren Township fire chief has begun.

Officials decided last week to move ahead with the process, advertising on the Michigan Fire Chief website, careerbuilders.com and the township website for about 60 days, but the deadline for applications will be left open until the position is filled.

Applications will be reviewed and interviews conducted by Township Supervisor Cindy King and Jerry Champagne, director of the public safety department, and then go back to the township board for final approval.

The troubling part though, is that it's still unclear what happened to former Fire Chief Mark

Nicholai. Nicholai left (or was asked to leave) in April, but township officials won't comment about what happened and neither would Nicholai.

I must admit I was surprised when I first heard about the incident. I always thought he (Nicholai) was professional, did his job well and was well-liked within the department and township. Of course no one really knows what goes on behind closed doors so while my reporter-cynical side wants to think it's some sort of conspiracy, it could just be as simple as Nicholai wasn't the right fit anymore for the department.

The part that I don't get, however, is why isn't anyone talking?

It will be about four or five months before we see a new township fire chief, but when we do, besides the overall maintenance of the fire department, some of the other duties will include: budget work, recruiting and training.

As for requirements, a bachelor's degree in fire management, public administration, public safety/emergency management, fire science or related field; along with field certifications and graduation from the National Fire Academy, School of Fire Staff and Command or similar leadership and manage-



King's Court

by Andrea King

JOURNAL
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Bills offer tax credits for using ‘green’ energy

Molly Tippen
Staff Writer

A package of five Senate bills sponsored in part by two western Wayne County lawmakers may help stimulate the creation and use of alternative energy in Michigan.

The bills would provide a tax credit to Michiganders who make renewable energy improvements to a residence. The credit would include the installation and retrofitting of home solar, wind or water energy conservation devices, said State Sen. Ray Basham (D-Taylor).

“To generate the green energy and stimulate the economy of the future, we need to encourage that transition right now for both businesses and residences,” he said. “The long-term benefits of renewable energy can be a major wind-fall, saving energy costs, bettering the environment and growing jobs,

and these bills can help speed that shift along.”

The other individual bills – which are sponsored by Sen. John Gleason (D-Flushing), Sen. Gilda Z. Jacobs (D-Huntington Woods), Sen. Dennis Olshove (D-Warren), and Sen. Bruce Patterson (R-Canton) – will provide the following alternative energy growth incentives.

The need for the bill was apparent after business people in Basham’s district expressed dismay for the cost of converting to renewable energy, which for many was too expensive.

“The way the law is written now, they can’t recoup the cost of moving to renewable energy,” Basham said. “We need to move in that direction – and this bill will allow (businesses and residents) to recoup their costs in about seven years.”

Those incentives include a

”
*The way the law is written now,
they can’t recoup the cost
of moving to renewable energy*

property tax exemption for alternative energy improvements, a tax abatement for renewable energy plants to stimulate redevelopment and rehabilitation in industrial districts, and sales and use tax exemptions on the purchase of alternative energy systems, including heating and cooling systems, solar panels and wind turbines, or alternative energy vehicles.

“We are making decisions in the Legislature right now that will affect Michigan’s energy future 10 and 20 years down the road,” Patterson said. “These bills will get our state headed in the right direc-

tion, and will help the market drive improvements in energy efficiency and development practices.”

The bills, if approved, would help create new jobs in a state badly in need of new employment opportunities, according to the sponsors.

“With our plentiful wind and water, existing industrial infrastructure, and dedicated and diligent workforce, renewable energy production is the natural progression of our manufacturing sector,” said Olshove.

In addition to encouraging businesses and homeowners to pur-

chase and use alternative energy systems, the incentives will reduce utility costs, saving families and companies money, and implement cleaner energy sources that can lower pollution and protect human health and the environment.

“As we strive to fuel our economy and develop and grow innovative industries, we need to also conserve our natural resources and stimulate energy independence,” said Gleason. “We can create thousands of jobs for the hardworking people of this state by encouraging the manufacturing of green energy components and materials.”

Basham said he’s pleased with the interest in the bills.

“We have bipartisan support – nothing moves ahead in the Legislature without bipartisan support – and we expect a hearing soon,” he said.

The bills are SB 1335 – SB 1339.

Letters

Township actions explained

To the editor:

After reading the Enterprise’s April 24, 2008 editorial entitled “What’s the big secret?” I felt compelled to respond.

First and foremost, the board of trustees and I take very seriously our efforts to ensure the township operates with transparency. This openness can be measured in the financial documents we compile such as monthly expenditure reports and the General Fund Budget. It is evident in the detail provided in the Township’s Capital Improvements Plan and the amount of documentation found in every board agenda packet, copies of which are supplied to all four newspapers covering township events and operations.

I can assure the Enterprise and the residents of Van Buren Township that thoughtful deliberation is given to each matter that comes before the board whether it is approving a purchase, adopting an ordinance or entering into a contract; and always with a sharp eye on the public’s interest and trust.

When it comes to personnel matters, sometimes a different approach must be considered. Under those circumstances, the

careers and livelihoods of township employees may be impacted and a level of sensitivity and privacy must be observed. Even the Michigan Open Meetings Act provides an exception to the requirements of a public meeting when a public body is addressing certain employee matters. We will be vigilant in keeping the public informed as to the services we provide and how we utilize funds entrusted to us by the taxpayers and public. At the same time, we will take measured steps to ensure the privacy of our employees is rightfully respected.

Soon, Public Safety Director Jerry Champagne and I will be presenting to the board our proposal to fill the vacant Fire Chief’s position. That proposal will include how we will seek candidates interested in the position, a comprehensive job description and proposed salary range and the method by which the successful candidate will be determined to lead the Van Buren Fire Department.

Cindy C. King,
Van Buren Township Supervisor

Thanks, and come join us

To the editor:
The Canton Lions Club who

work to eradicate preventable blindness, help the hearing impaired and other worthy causes has ended our annual White Cane Fundraising Drive for this year and wanted to publicly thank all our generous donors and the local businesses whose cooperation was critical to our success.

Holiday Market (Lilley/Cherry Hill), Kroger on Michigan Avenue, and Richardson’s Drugs (Ford/Lilley), along with our member volunteers made a great team. The funds we raised will help those in need in our community and throughout the state.

Donations came from children and grandchildren, senior citizens and every age group in between. Thank you for stopping to chat with us and sharing how the Lions Club has touched you or family or friends. One man put it this way, “The Lions helped my grandfather 30 years ago and I welcome the opportunity to give back”.

We hope you will celebrate 40 years of our “we serve” motto at our upcoming Dinner Dance on Friday June 6, 2008 at 6 p.m. at the Cady/Boyer Barn. A delicious catered dinner, raffles and 50s and 60s

music by Canton’s own “Fairview” is planned. Please visit our website at www.cantonlions.org (click Main Menu Items, 40th Anniversary Invite) for details or call 734-397-8975. Come and meet the newest Canton Township Community Supporter Award recipients and learn more about the Canton Lions.

Also please plan to join us for our famous all you care to eat pan-

cake breakfast along the Libertyfest Parade route. Set up your chair on Ford Road ahead of time and then stop by Kohl’s parking lot at Ford/Sheldon starting at 7 a.m. on Saturday June 14. The breakfast is complimentary; your donations are appreciated. Help us spread the word!

Bob Boyer,
President, Canton Lions Club

Silence

FROM PAGE 4

ment training is desirable. The salary is between \$65,000-75,000, plus benefits.

Township officials said they are looking for someone: competent in judgment; a strategic thinker; someone with interpersonal communications, conflict resolution, professional knowledge and the ability to meet the needs of the organization based upon the challenges specially related to a paid-on-call department in a growing community. The successful candidate will need to prove their ability to be a leader, manager, communicator and planner, according to officials.

The fire chief is also required to work in unison with the police department and other department directors to coordinate service

to the community. Van Buren Township promotes the public safety concept with a portion of the employees being cross-trained as police officers and firefighters, officials said.

Under Nicholai’s supervision, Fire Station I was opened, a millage was approved, a 24-hour fire service was established, and so were an Explorer’s program, a citizen’s fire academy and a public safety chaplains team. While I’m sure it was a team effort, I have to also believe he did play a role in those accomplishments, as well.

And without a public word, he simply gathered his personal possessions from his office and doesn’t work there anymore.

I suppose no matter what you do or where you are, careers are based on politics, corporate or otherwise.

Let’s just hope it’s not a mixture of bad business, too.


Watch for daily news updates on our website
www.journalgroup.com

WEIGHT LOSS WITH A DEGREE OF DIFFERENCE. A MEDICAL DEGREE.

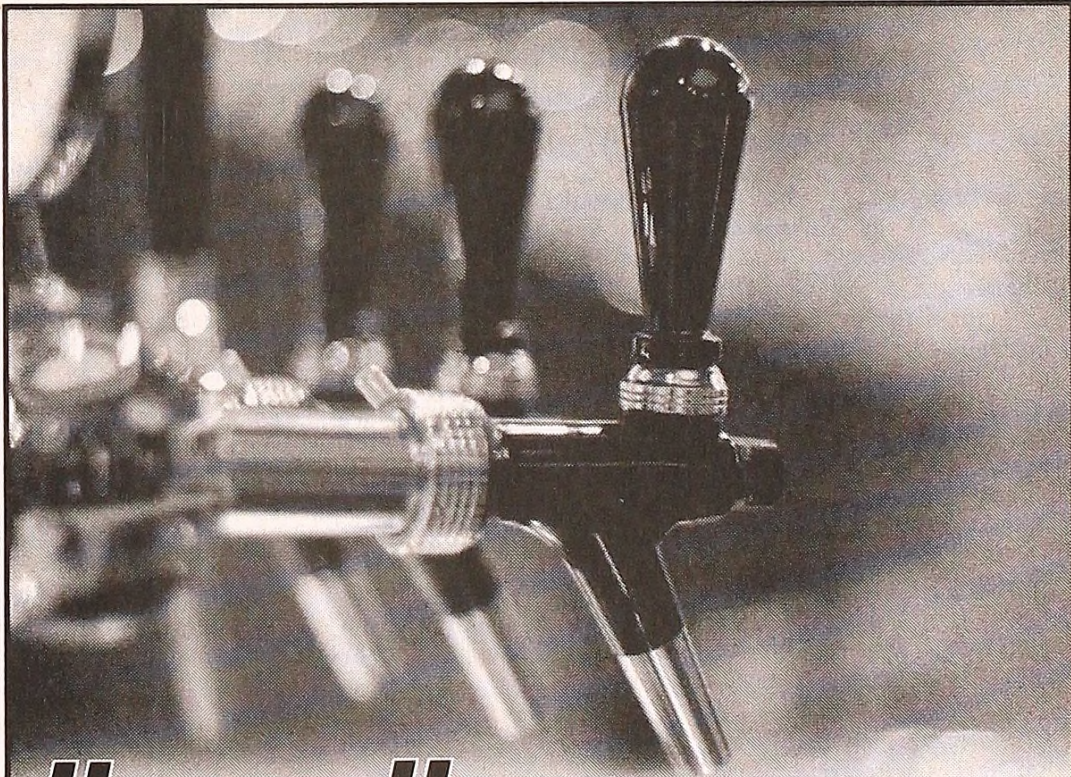
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Everyday Specials

- \$2.25 Miller Lite / Bud Light Drafts
- \$4.00 House Wines
- \$5.00 All Martinis

Monday and Tuesday

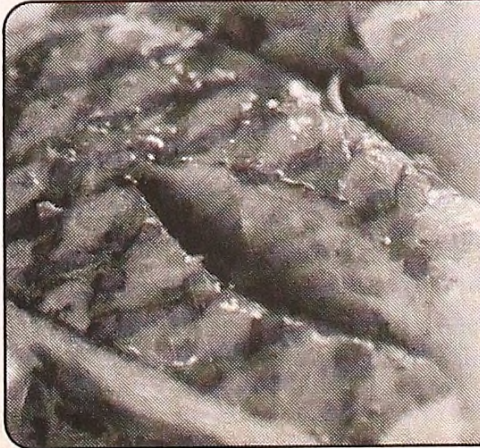
- 1/2 Off All Appetizers
- \$2.95 Margaritas
- \$2.00 Off Chicken & Steak Quesadillas

Wednesday- Ladies Nite

- 1/2 Off All Pizzas
- \$2.95 Long Islands & Long Beaches
- \$2.95 All Daiquiris
- Plus Wine Specials!!

Thursday & Friday

- Complimentary Hors'doeuvres
- \$2.95 Irish & Spanish Coffees
- \$1.00 Off All Well Drinks
- Plus \$1 off all Well Drinks from the bar



FRESH
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FEATURES
EVERY DAY

Pair convicted in death

Kyron Darrell Benson, 20, and Paula Rena Bennett, 18, were found guilty of the first-degree murder of Stephanie Michelle McClure, 22, of Sumpter Township.

Police reported that theft was the motive for the death of McClure last year.

The trial started on May 6 at the Wayne County Circuit Court before going to the jury last week. The jury took about 30 minutes to deliberate and find Benson guilty. He is scheduled for a June 23 sentencing at the Frank Murphy Hall of Justice.

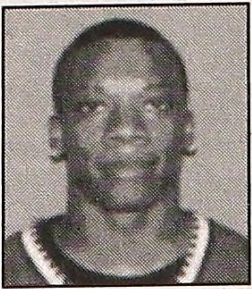
Bennett was found guilty of premeditated murder after about an hour of jury deliberation. She is scheduled for a June 10 sentencing at the Frank Murphy Hall of Justice, according to officials.

At about 2:33 a.m. on Oct. 6, 2007, the Sumpter Township Police Department responded to a report of shots fired in the 300 block of Utah Court, located in the Holiday West Mobile Homes. McClure was found lying next to her vehicle and had sustained multiple gun shot wounds. She was pronounced dead at the scene, police said.

An immediate investigation started and through several search warrant raids, citizen tips and interviews, two suspects—Bennett and Benson—were arrested in connection with the homicide, according to Det. Michael Czinski of the Sumpter Township Police Department.

Benson, of Ypsilanti, was charged with premeditated first-degree murder, firearms possession by felon and felony firearms in October 2007. Bennett, of Van Buren Township, was charged with premeditated homicide, first-degree murder.

For more information, contact Czinski at (734) 461-6898.



Kyron Darrell Benson



Paula Rena Bennett

Home fire ruled ‘accidental’

Van Buren Township Fire Department officials have ruled out suspicious causes in the recent fire on East Adams.

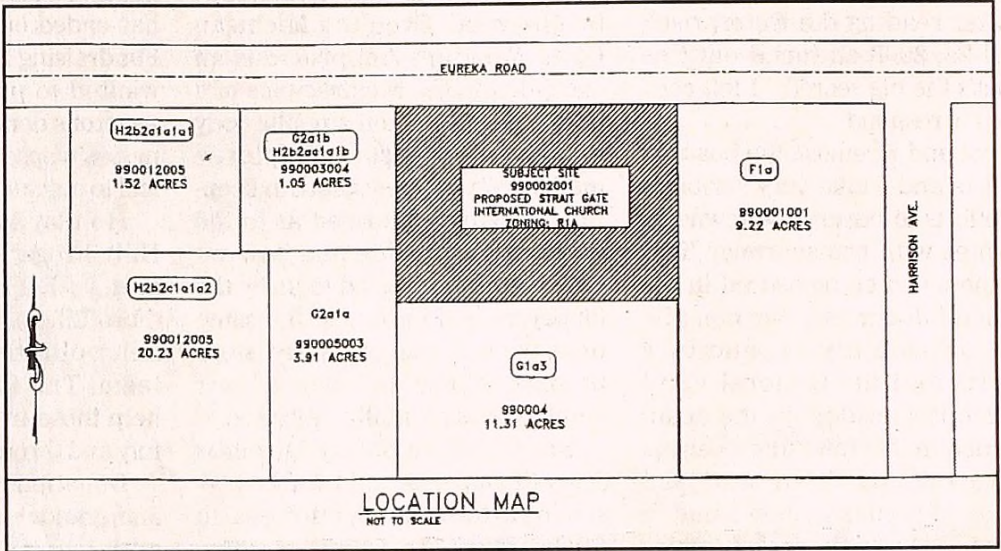
Officials said the fire started in the garage and spread to the bedrooms where the children were sleeping. Luckily, a neighbor observed the fire, which led to the rescue of the occupants. The homeowner didn't have any idea there was a fire in the house since there were no working smoke detectors, according to Lt. Dan Besson.

The family is receiving assistance from the American Red Cross and other agencies. The Wal-Mart in Van Buren Township also donated 50 smoke detectors to the township fire department smoke detector program.

CITY OF ROMULUS PLANNING COMMISSION NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING ON A PROPOSED SPECIAL LAND USES STRAIT GATE INTERNATIONAL CHURCH

Pursuant to Michigan Public Act 110 of 2006, as amended (The Michigan Zoning Enabling Act), notice is hereby given that the City of Romulus will hold a public hearing at **7:00 p.m. on Monday, June 16, 2008**, for the purpose of considering a Special Land Use proposal. The public hearing will be held at the Romulus City Hall Council Chambers, 11111 Wayne Road, Romulus MI 48174-1485.

The Planning Commission has set the public hearing to consider a request to develop a 23,000 square foot church on a 3.08+- acre parcel on the south side of Eureka Road between Middlebelt and Harrison Roads. **DP# 82-80-142-99-0002-001**. The parcel is zoned R1-A, Single Family Residential District. These types of facilities are permitted in the R1-A, Single Family Residential District, subject to Special Land Use Approval. Copies of the application are available for review at City Hall during regular business hours.



All interested parties are encouraged to attend and will be given an opportunity to comment on said request. Written comments may be submitted until 12:00 noon, Monday, June 16, 2008, and should be addressed to Cynthia I. Lyon, AICP, City Planner, Economic Development Department, 11111 Wayne Road, Romulus, MI 48174-1485.

Linda R. Choate, CMC, City Clerk
City of Romulus, Michigan

Publish: May 29, 2008

CITY OF ROMULUS REQUEST TO RECEIVE BIDS BID 07/08-42 - RESCUE TOOL HYDRAULIC HOSES

The City of Romulus, Michigan is seeking bids from qualified vendors for the above item/items.

(1) Qualified individuals and firms wishing to submit bids *must do so on forms provided by the City*. Bid forms and specifications may be obtained from Lynn A. Conway, Purchasing Agent, 11111 Wayne Road, Romulus, Michigan, by calling (734) 955-4568 or by emailing Iconway@ci.romulus.mi.us or are available to download from the *“Bid Requirements”* section on the City of Romulus Web Site: <http://ci.romulus.mi.us>

(2) Bids must be submitted in sealed envelopes and returned to the *City Clerk’s Office* no later than 3:00pm, TUESDAY, JUNE 10, 2008. At approximately 3:15 all timely received bids are to be publicly opened and read.

BID ENVELOPES MUST BE ADDRESSED:

**CITY OF ROMULUS CLERK’S OFFICE
BID 07/08-42 - RESCUE TOOL HYDRAULIC HOSES
11111 Wayne Road,
Romulus, Michigan**

(1) The City reserves the right to reject all bids and proposals and to waive technicalities.

(2) For additional information contact Lynn A. Conway, City of Romulus Purchasing Agent, by calling (734) 955-4568 or by emailing Iconway@ci.romulus.mi.us

Publish: May 29, 2008

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES MAY 20, 2008

Supervisor King called the meeting to order at 7:31 p.m. in the Board Room. Present: Supervisor King, Treasurer Budd, Trustee Clair, Trustee Jahr and Trustee Rochowiak. Absent and excused: Clerk Payne and Trustee Hart. Others in attendance: Planning and Economic Development Director Kelley, Parks and Recreation Director Ross, DPW Director Knepper, Public Safety Director Champagne, Executive Assistant Ireland, Secretary Cline and an audience of seven (7).

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Jahr moved, Budd seconded to approve the agenda as amended. To remove New Business Item #7 “Consider approval of the relocated storm water easement by Fifth-Third Bank to the Township for the new bank building constructed at 10444 Belleville Road, parcel number V125-83-044-99-0003-717 and authorize the Township Supervisor to execute all related documents.” Carried.

PUBLIC HEARING: None.

MINUTES: Jahr moved, Rochowiak seconded to approve the Work Study Session Minutes of April 14, 2008 as presented. Carried.

Rochowiak moved, Budd seconded to approve the Regular Board Meeting Minutes of April 15, 2008 as presented. Carried.

CORRESPONDENCE: Supervisor King read an announcement from Clerk Payne stating for those voters whose voter identification card was returned from the post office with an address change within the township, the new address will be placed in the Qualified Voter File. This will also make a change to their driver license file and a new address sticker will be sent by the Secretary of State. Also, if you have not received a new voter identification card or have any questions regarding voting contact the Clerk’s Office at 734.699.8909.

Wayne County Department of Environment is sponsoring a Household Hazardous Waste Collection on Saturday, June 7th from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Romulus Civic Center located at Wayne Road in Romulus. For more information contact the Wayne County Department of Environment at 734.326.3936.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS: Clair moved, Rochowiak seconded to approve the appointment of Kent Niederhofer and the reappointments of Doug Peters and Ken McKanders to the Local Development Finance Authority with terms to expire August 12, 2010. Carried.

Rochowiak moved, Clair seconded to approve a three year contract with Hydro Designs, Inc. for continued work on the Van Buren Township Cross Connection Control Program [\$16,200 annually]. Carried.

Jahr moved, Budd seconded to allow Trustee Clair to abstain from voting on “New Business” Item # 3 “Consider approval to use \$3,000 from annual Waste Management Cultural Activities Grant towards 2008 Sizzlin’ Summer Night Concert Series.”[Trustee Clair is a member of the Belleville Community Band and Mr. Largebeat Band]. Carried.

Budd moved, Rochowiak seconded to approve use of \$3,000 from annual Waste Management Cultural Activities Grant towards 2008 Sizzlin’ Summer Night Concert Series. Roll Call Vote. Yeas: Budd, Jahr, Rochowiak and King. Nays: None. Absent and excused: Payne and Hart. Abstention: Clair. Carried.

Jahr moved, Clair seconded to adopt Resolution 2008-18 a final project plan for (Rouge Valley Sewage Disposal System) wastewater system improvements and designating Kurt Heise as authorized project representative. Carried.

Budd moved, Rochowiak seconded to approve the thirty (30) years water contract with the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department (DWSD) for the water supplied to Van Buren Township. Carried.

Clair moved, Rochowiak seconded to approve the permit applications by AT&T to install telecommunications infrastructure for PN#6213523 1034-08-2718 in the Tyler Road public

right of way, from a northerly point west of the intersection of Tyler and Morton-Taylor then southerly across Tyler Road; PN#6213352 in the southerly portion of the Savage Road public right of way, westerly from a point near the intersection of Colonial Road (Country Walk) to the intersection of Martinsville and Boulder Pond Drive; PN#6354243 1034-08-2709 in the easterly and westerly portion of the Martinsville Road public right of way, from a point at the southeast corner of the intersection of East Huron River Drive and Martinsville Road, then southerly for a distance of approximately 208 feet, then south and west across Martinsville Road for a distance of approximately 126 feet. Carried.

Rochowiak moved, Budd seconded to adopt Resolution 2008-19 Storm Water Permit for Riggs Heritage Park and authorize the Supervisor and Clerk to sign the documents. Carried.

Jahr moved, Rochowiak seconded to approve the proposal for filling the vacant Fire Chief position; methodology for selecting the Fire Chief candidate; and Fire Chief job description (including the salary range). Carried.

VOUCHER LIST: Clair moved, Budd seconded to approve the May 20, 2008 voucher list as presented. Carried.

REPORTS: Supervisor King ordered the March 2008 Budgetary Report received and filed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Supervisor King reminded the public for those voters whose voter identification card was returned from the post office with an address change within the township, the new address will be placed in the Qualified Voter File. This will also make a change to their driver license file and a new address sticker will be sent by the Secretary of State. Also, if you have not received a new voter identification card or have any questions regarding voting contact the Clerk’s Office at 734.699.8909.

On Monday, May 26th the Administrative Offices at Township Hall will be closed in observance of Memorial Day.

The Michigan National Guard Family Program is holding a benefit motorcycle ride on June 8th, sponsored by the Van Buren Eagles. The eighty mile ride begins at the Ypsilanti National Guard Armory with registration from 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. and for more information contact 734.699.8836.

A communication from Cathy Horste, Van Buren Township Historian announcing the Tuesday, June 3rd “The Purple Gang Strikes Again” an interactive dinner and theatre murder mystery event is sold out and a second show will be held on July 8th to benefit the Belleville Museum sponsored by the Belleville Historical Society both shows will be held at the Johnny’s Place. For more information call 734.697.3662.

The Park and Recreation Department announced the following events: The 2008 fireworks display will be held on Saturday, June 28th with a rain date of Sunday, June 29th at the Beck Road baseball fields at dusk. The first music concert featuring Little Davey and the Diplomats will held on Friday, July 11th at Van Buren Park located on the South I-94 Service Drive. For further information on events contact the Recreation Department at 734.699.8921.

AUDIENCE (Non-Agenda Items): A resident inquired about the township police dog. Director Champagne stated the former canine officer moved out of state and the former canine officer reimbursed the township for the police dog he worked with, a new police dog is currently being trained and will be active soon.

CLOSED SESSION: None.

ADJOURNMENT: Budd moved, Clair seconded to adjourn at 8:34 p.m. Carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Joannie D. Payne, CMC
Township Clerk

Cindy C. King
Supervisor

Publish: May 29, 2008

SPORTS



The Northville Lady Mustangs won the Western Lakes Championship last Wednesday when they beat rival Churchill, 6-0.

Kickin' it Stern style Northville soccer wins WLAA title

Jeff Novak
Staff Writer

"I was just having fun out there."
That was what Northville senior Sarah Stern said after her four-goal performance that led the Lady Mustangs to a 6-0 victory over Livonia Churchill and gave them the Western Lakes conference championship crown.
She made everything look easy from start to finish—as always—and even seemed surprised that her fourth goal—the team's sixth of the night—even went in. She lobbed the shot in from an odd angle and it went over the goalkeeper's head and hooked into the net. Afterward she clasped her hands over mouth in disbelief.
"It ended up being a chop on the

outside of the foot and it curved it like I wish I could do on command," she explained.
The tally and the win were anything but flukes.
Northville is 16-0-2 on the season. They have won 13 straight, recorded 14 shutouts and are ranked No. 1 in the state by the Michigan High School Soccer Coaches Association (MHSCA).
The championship was anything but unexpected. Now, with the WLAA merging with the Kensington Valley Conference (KVC) to form the Kensington Lakes Activities association (KLAA) for next season, Northville will forever be remembered as the team that won the last-ever WLAA championship.
"It felt really good to get this,"

Stern said. "We had a lot of confidence coming into it and everyone stepped up and played their game. It was a big goal of ours to win the last one of the conference championship."
To get things going, Stern outleapt Churchill's goalkeeper and knocked a header in about 13:30 into the game. The score stood at 1-0 for the rest of the half.
Stern took just 1:14 of the second half to score what would be the goal that broke the Chargers' backs—the most important goal, according to Northville Coach Ron Meteyer.
"That was very important," Meteyer said. "It took the wind out of their sails from the get-go and our defense played real solid. As good as our offense played, our defense played equally as well. I hope that this is a good tone-setter."
Junior Kathleen Keiffer added a header at the 25:21 mark. After the tally, she celebrated with teammates while holding her nose that collided with Churchill senior Lindsey Marlow's elbow on the effort. She was fine and the Lady 'Stangs continued on their mission.
Stern made it a 4-0 game with 17:39 left on the clock and sophomore Lauren Lokey gave Northville a 5-0 advantage with 15:48 left.
Then Stern finished off her hat-trick-plus-one night with the mouth-covering goal with 5:26 left to play. The victory made up for the 1-0 contest Churchill won at Northville for the same prize, last year.
"It feels good to get this one back," Meteyer added. "We felt we had a little bit of payback coming. This was nice. The girls worked real hard the last two weeks and it showed."
The rivalry isn't over yet. Northville drew Churchill for the district opener on Tuesday.
"As long as we come out strong like we did this time," Stern said, "we should be good."



Northville junior Kathleen Keiffer uses her head against Churchill senior forward Lindsey Marlowe. Keiffer scored on a header in the second half to give Northville a 3-0 advantage.

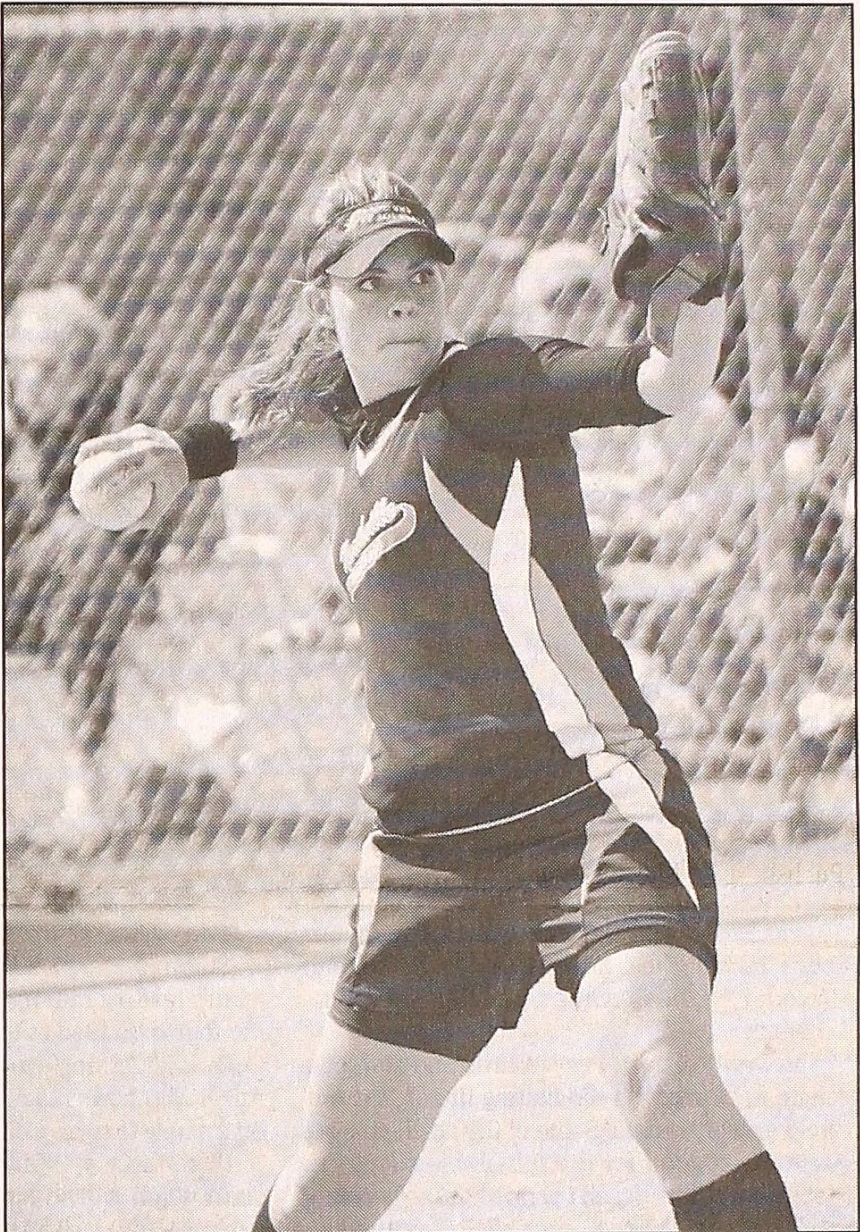
Salem upsets Northville, wins WLAA

Jeff Novak
Staff Writer

Northville was the best team to step onto the softball diamond last Wednesday but the Lady Mustangs left as the Western Lakes conference runner up. They fell to visiting Salem, 5-3, in the championship bout.
The Lady 'Stangs were the regular season champs, finishing with a 16-0 regular season conference record—including a 6-0, victory over Salem (24-7-1) on May 13—and 26-3 overall.
Records aside, Salem came to play and played well in the playoff contest.

Northville meant business and took a 1-0 lead when junior catcher Sarah Rounsifer delivered a single to score junior Mariel Wilson at the bottom of the opening frame.
Salem countered with junior catcher Emily Pitcole's three-run homer at the top of the third to make it a 3-1 ball game.
Northville didn't recover from the blow. Senior Brittany Birdsall tried. She ripped a double to score senior Jenna Dumbleton at the bottom of the third but it wasn't enough.
Salem went on the offensive again in the sixth. Two Northville

See **Softball**, page 8



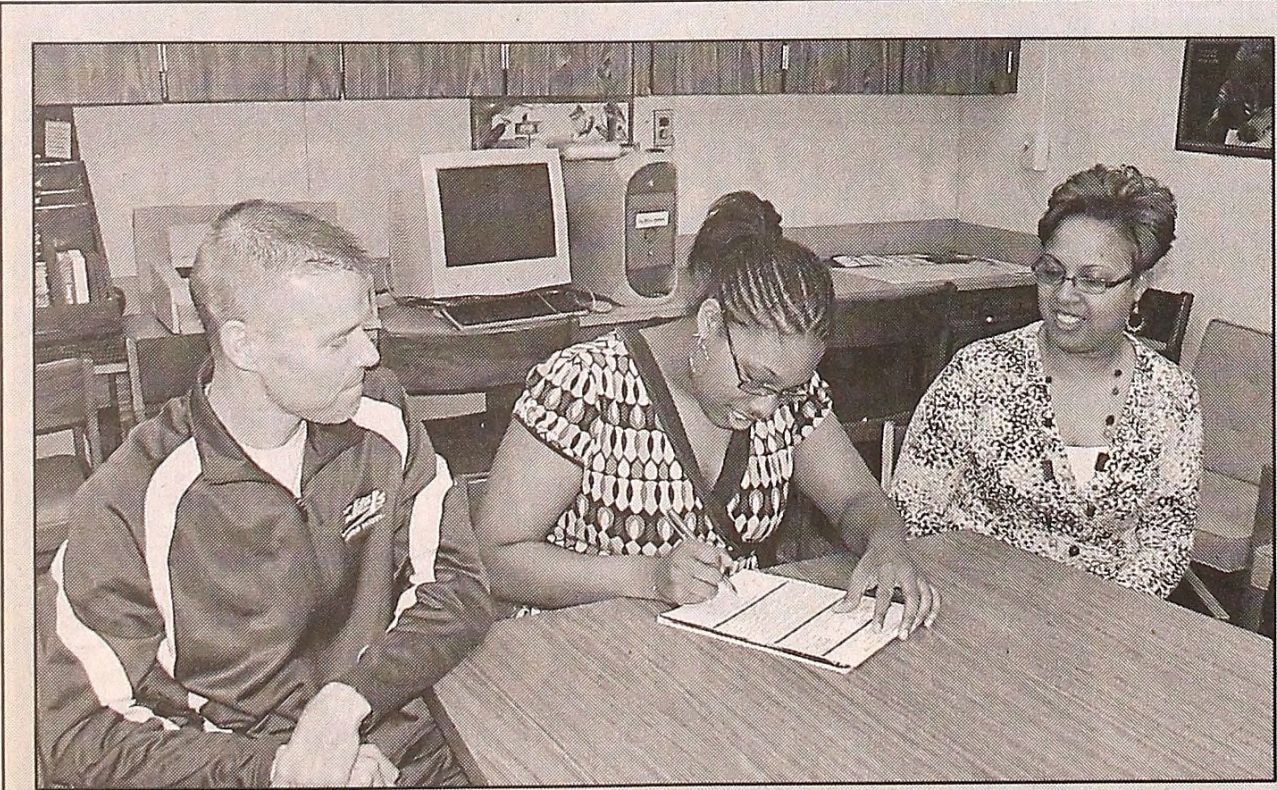
Northville senior Brittany Birdsall makes a play against Salem in the conference title game last week. Salem won the game, 5-3.
Photo by Diana Birdsall

Inkster falls shy in search of Gold title

Jeff Novak
Staff Writer

The Inkster Vikings baseball team fell just shy of winning the Mega Gold title last week, but it wasn't for a lack of trying.
The Vikings lost to Highland Park—the eventual league champs—6-5, on Friday. That wasn't the heartbreaker, though. Inkster suffered a loss earlier in the week to River Rouge—a loss that knocked the Vikings out of contention.
Instead of battling for the crown outright, Inkster fought for a share of the prize at Highland Park.
After trailing, 5-3, for most of the game Inkster battled back and tied the game at five at the top of the seventh when sophomore Daniel MacCarther scored on junior Auwin Daryin's single.
Highland Park scored from second on a wild pitch in the bottom of the seventh for the win.
"I thought we had it," said Inkster Coach Jerome Orr. "We just blew it."
Both teams scored two runs in the first.
Senior Josh Howard scored on a sacrifice bunt and Daryin scored on senior Javier Reed's single for an early lead. In the third, Daryin scored on a hit by senior Derrick Coker to recapture the lead, 3-2.
Highland Park separated itself with single runs in the third, fourth and fifth for the 5-3 advantage.
Coker got on with a double in

the sixth, stole third and scored on a wild pitch to cut into the lead, 5-4.
Howard pitched the whole game and recorded nine strikeouts, giving up just four hits.
"It was a game that we should have won," Orr said.
The River Rouge game was another contest the team should have won, according to Orr.
Inkster led 4-0 until the sixth, when visiting Rouge knocked in five runs to take the lead. The Panthers extended their lead with a run at the top of the seventh. Inkster battled back at the bottom of the final frame but fell short, scoring just one run, for a 6-5 final.
Daryin struck out nine batters in five innings with Coker and Howard finishing out the game.
Inkster's senior troupe was in full swing against Fordson last Wednesday to lead the Vikings to a 16-15 victory.
Howard and Reed each recorded three triples in the slugfest. Rollins added one triple and Coker had a double and single. Coker earned the win from the mound, striking out eight in six innings. Howard pitched the seventh for the save.
Inkster hosted Ecorse on Wednesday in a make-up game that decided who holds onto second place in the Gold. The results were unavailable at press time.
Inkster plays Devine Child in a district competition at noon on Saturday at Redford Thurston.



Jackson bound

Belleville High School senior Courtney Holland signed her National Letter of Intent to play basketball on a full scholarship at Jackson Community College last week. She plans to major in Sports Management. Friends and family were on hand at the high school last week when Courtney, (center), pictured with Jackson Community College Head Coach Andrew Hoaglin (left) and her mother made her commitment.

SPORTS

Ignition compete internationally

Jeff Novak
Staff Writer

Detroit Ignition forwards Mike Apple and Jamar Beasley proved

they were among the elite in the Major Indoor Soccer League but now they have an opportunity to prove it to the world.

The two Ignition stars were cho-

sen for the 12-man United States national team, led by Keith Tozer—the head coach of the MISL's Milwaukee Wave—that heads to the CONCACAF Futsal Championships in Guatemala next month.

"We are really excited about the team going down there to defend our CONCACAF Championship and qualify for the World Cup," Tozer said. "It brings back a lot of memories. 1996 was my first tournament as a head coach with the national team in Guatemala, and we won the gold medal there, so we're excited about going there again and I am also excited about the team that we are bringing down there."

All but one of the 12 players on Tozer's roster played in the MISL last season. The team includes midfielder Denison Cabral whose recent hat trick in the MISL Final helped the Baltimore Blast to a 14-11 championship victory over La Raza de Monterrey in Milwaukee, WI.

Two players in the squad, Beasley and Pat Morris, possess Futsal World Cup experience, having helped the U.S. into the second stage during the 2004 tournament in Chinese Taipei.

"We got players like Denison Cabral, who was the MVP of the MISL Finals, Chile Farias, Matt Stewart, Pat Morris - a perennial All-Star," Tozer said. "There's a lot of ability on the team. I think their athleticism, their technical ability, their youth, their speed will hopefully compensate for the lack of futsal experience we have as a team."

The U.S. will compete against Costa Rica, Panama and host,



Ignition leading scorer Jamar Beasley will take his sure-footed skills to Guatemala to help the United States win its third CONCACAF Futsal Championship. Photo by Gregory Shamus Photography



Ignition forward Mike Apple is one of 12 players chosen to represent the United States in the CONCACAF Futsal Championships in Guatemala next month. Photo by Gregory Shamus Photography

Guatemala. The CONCACAF (Confederation of North, Central American and Caribbean Association Football) Championship will determine which teams from North America qualify for the FIFA Futsal World Cup to be hosted by Brazil from Sept. 30 until Oct. 19.

The U.S. is the defending champion of the CONCACAF Futsal Championship, and a two-time winner in the tournament's history. In 2004, the United States won the tournament by compiling a 3-0-2 record that included a 4-0 semifinal victory over host Costa Rica.

The team is coming off a 10-day training camp in Brazil that included three matches against Brazilian

club teams. The U.S. finished the trip with a 1-2-0 record.

"That trip is invaluable, especially for a team that has played little or no futsal. It's a game that as you play, you get better," Tozer said. "If you go to a tournament and you haven't had a trip it's very difficult. I really think that the Federation has done a fantastic job of getting us to do things like that and going down to the CONCACAF finals five days early is also going to be beneficial if we are going to defend this championship."

The U.S. travels to Guatemala on May 28 and the tournament kicks off on June 3, with the U.S. facing Costa Rica in its opening match.

Belleville Lady Tigers hold of Cougars, 2-1

Jeff Novak
Staff Writer

Ch-ch-ch-changes.

There's no real connection between rocker David Bowie and the Belleville softball team other than he sings a song about what the Lady Tigers have been going through all season—changes.

Belleville Coach Peggy Curtis and staff continue to tinker with the batting lineup, the outfield and the infield. Some of the ch-ch-changes have been good for the otherwise struggling team and others haven't panned out as hoped.

The latest change—inspired by an injury—appeared to work last week when the Lady Tigers held off a pretty sound Garden City squad for a 2-1 victory on Wednesday. Senior catcher Danielle Stabnau injured her glove thumb a week ago at the Madonna tournament and is unable to catch for junior hurler and the

team's one constant, Samantha Cole. Curtis moved Stabnau to third base and moved senior third-baser Wendy Morton to outfield. Freshman Bridget Cole took over catching duties.

The switch appeared to work.

Stabnau, despite her bad digit, is still the team's leading hitter. She provided a double in the fourth that led to the team's first tally when Cole ripped a single to bring her around. Junior Angel Matthews made it a 2-0 game when she hit a single to score Cole.

Garden City countered with a run in the sixth when Hallie Minch, who got on with a triple, scored on a fielder's choice.

Cole did the rest of the work for Belleville. She pitched a three hitter with 11 strikeouts. "We hope that this is the answer," Curtis said. "As of right now this is the lineup we'll go to districts with. Morton has done good in the outfield and Stabnau shores up the defense a little bit—

she does a great job wherever we put her."

To win against a team coming in with a 24-5 overall and a 10-1 Mega Red record was huge for Belleville with districts around the corner.

"I told the seniors before the game that this was going to be their last time to play on the field," Curtis said. "I told them that they have to make it count."

Last Monday didn't go as well.

Belleville had runners stranded in the first, fourth, sixth and seventh innings in the 1-0 loss to host Allen Park.

Allen Park scored in the bottom of the seventh for the win.

Belleville doesn't hit the field again until noon on Saturday, when they play the winner of the Temperance Bedford-Saline game at Temperance Bedford.

"We will work hard this week on hitting and defense," Curtis said. "This is a whole new season that starts on Saturday."

Softball

FROM PAGE 7

errors led to two scores for the Lady Rocks. With bases loaded and one out Northville senior pitcher Allison Holmes scooped up a hit and threw a runner out at home but the double play attempt went askew when the ball ended up in the outfield instead of at first. The error allowed two runners to score and put Salem up, 5-2.

In the bottom of the seventh Northville got things going again. Senior Alex Kaszuba led off

with a single. Freshman speedster Karly Fisher went in to pinch run. She moved to second on senior Kelsey Lewis' single and scored on Holmes' single for a 5-3 score.

With two outs and Kaszuba and Holmes on base, Salem freshman hurler Brianna Lee secured the last out and the triumph when one of her pitches was returned to her in the form of a short popup.

It was a nice ending for the Rocks, who will now be the last team recorded as the Western Lakes Activities Association champions. Pre-district competition started this week with the finals on Saturday. Salem hosts its district while Northville is at Novi.

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SHOWTIMES 5/30 - 6/5 No passes

SEX AND THE CITY (R)
11:00, 1:45, 4:30, 7:15, 10:00

THE STRANGERS (R)
11:20, 1:25, 3:30, 5:35, 7:40, 9:45

FRIDAY SAT 11:50

INDIANA JONES AND THE KINGDOM OF THE CRYSTAL SKULL (PG-13)
11:00, 11:30, 1:35, 2:05, 4:10, 4:40, 6:45, 7:20, 9:25, 9:55

FRIDAY SAT 12:00

THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA: PRINCE CASPIAN (PG)
12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 9:30

WHAT HAPPENS IN VEGAS (PG-13)
12:35, 2:50, 5:05, 7:20, 9:35

FRIDAY SAT 11:50

IRON MAN (PG-13)
11:00, 1:40, 4:20, 7:00, 9:40

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SPORTS

Plymouth Wildcats
ready for districts

Jeff Novak
Staff Writer

The Plymouth Wildcat hitters capped off the regular season and a six-game wining streak with an 8-4 victory against host Churchill in a Western Lakes playoff game last Wednesday.

The Cats earned five runs in the fourth to pull out the 8-4 win.

The Chargers broke a 1-1 tie in the third with a single tally. Plymouth strung together enough hits in the fourth to overcome the lead, 6-2. Churchill cut into the lead with two more runs in the bottom of the fourth.

The Wildcats brought two more around in he sixth to put the game away.

Junior pitcher Brad Lineberry struggled early but, with the help of a solid defense, shut down the Chargers' offense in the last three frames. He finished with five strikeouts. On offense Lineberry drilled a two-run triple.

"After a rough start with his command, Brad Lineberry settled down and pitched a really nice game tonight," said Plymouth Coach Chuck Adams. "Brad's a battler, through and through. This one was special because it's the first time in Plymouth Wildcat baseball history we have reached the 20-win milestone for a season."

Senior captain David Harvey led the offensive efforts. He finished 3-for-4 including a double, an RBI and a run scored. Junior Matt Rose had a triple with an RBI and junior Luke Merandi was 2-for-3

with an RBI and two runs scored. Senior Garrett Rebain had a double.

Plymouth won a hard-fought battle with visiting Stevenson, 4-3, last Monday.

Rebain recorded the win on the mound. He gave up three earned runs on seven hits and struck out seven batters.

The Wildcats scored three runs in the first inning. Stevenson never answered until the fourth when the Spartans scored twice. Plymouth added another one in the bottom of the frame.

Things got exciting in the seventh when Stevenson rallied to get the tying run on third with one out,

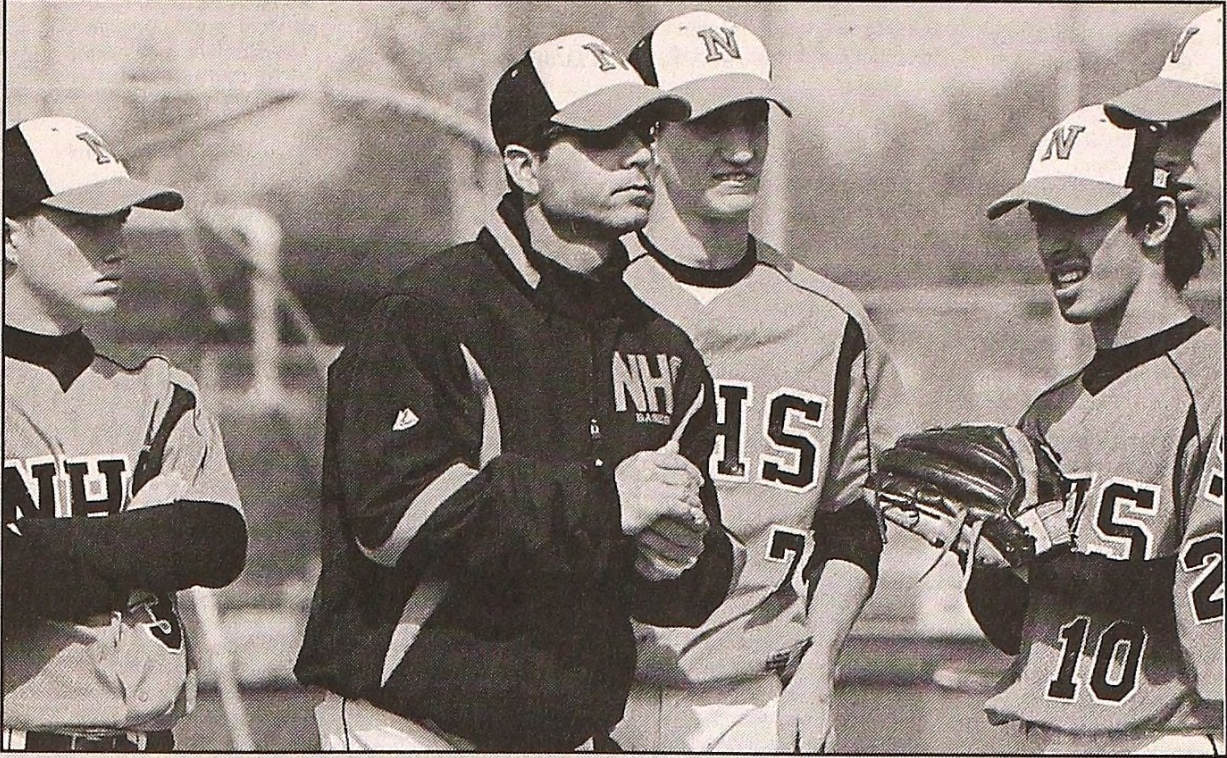
but Rebain got the team out of the jam.

"The game was about exciting as a Sarasota shuffle board game until the seventh," Adams said. "Garrett was huge by getting the next two batters to strike out for the complete game win. He's had a really nice year for the Cats working both sides of the battery (pitching

and catching)."

With the wins Plymouth moved up to 20-9 overall for the season—the best record to date for the Wildcats. The win streak came at a good time with the state tournament starting this week.

"Obviously, you want to be playing your best ball at the end of the season," Adams said. "We discuss regularly how important it is to keep playing better throughout the season. The kids have responded this year and should hopefully play well come playoff time."



Mustang hitters clinch WLAA title


What was the most important game of the regular season for both the Northville and Salem baseball clubs ended up being a one-team show as the Mustangs blasted the Rocks for an 11-2 victory to capture the Western Lakes title last Wednesday. Northville improved to 29-2 for the season and marked its third straight conference crown with the victory. The triumph also recouped a loss to Salem two weeks prior. Northville scored seven runs off of Salem starting pitcher Joe Posler through five innings and put the game away with four runs in the seventh. That was Posler's first loss of the season. Northville junior Matt Deacon was a powerhouse on offense for Northville. He went 3-for-5 with a triple and three runs scored. Junior David Uberti closed the win on the mound for the 'Stangs. Salem's only two runs came in the second off of a two-run double by Justin Horger. Above, Northville Coach John Kostrzewa talks with his team between innings in the conference championship bout with Salem on Wednesday.



CLASSIFIED

01. Obituaries
02. In Memoriam
03. Cards of Thanks
04. Monuments
 & Cemetery Plots
05. Personals/Announcements
06. Legal Notices
07. Attorneys
08. Entertainment
09. Lost & Found
10. Coming Events
30. Help Wanted
31. Help Wanted Sales
32. Help Wanted Drivers
33. Child Care
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40. Business Opportunity
42. Health and Fitness
43. Money to Loan
44. Music/Art Lessons
45. Adult Care
46. Private Schools/Instruction
47. Riding/Horses/Stables
50. Pets & Supplies
54. Rummage Sales
55. Estate Sales
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58. Garage and Yard Sales
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61. Misc. Items
62. Building Supplies
63. Business and Office Equipment
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90. Condos/Townhouses for Rent
92. Business Places for Rent
93. Banquet Halls
94. Farm Land for Rent
95. Real Estate
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97. Cottages for Rent
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99. Flats for Rent
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103. Business Property for Sale
104. Farms & Acreage for Sale
105. Mobile Homes for Sale
106. Houses for Sale
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108. Lake and Resort
109. Income Property
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111. Out of State Property
112. Commercial Lease
113. Real Estate Wanted
114. Auto Accessories
115. Autos for Sale
116. Antique & Classic Cars
117. Trucks & Vans for Sale
118. Freebies
119. Auto Repairs
120. Motorcycles
121. Autos Wanted

1. Obituaries



ALLEN, Mary L., age 53, of 3185 Westhill Drive, Wausau, WI., died Thursday, May 22, 2008 at Aspirus Wausau Hospital.

Mary was born May 14, 1955 in Detroit, MI to Pat (nee McSweeney) Tallmadge and the late Walter Tallmadge. She married Elmer R. Allen on September 28, 1995 in Las Vegas, NV. She graduated from Northern Michigan University with a degree in Forestry, and later received an Associate Degree as a Radiology Technician.

Mary was employed at Aspirus Wausau Hospital as a Mammography and Radiology Technician. She was involved as a speaker for the Bariatric Department and for the Women's Breast Cancer Program in association with the Women's Health Foundation.

She and her husband enjoyed traveling to casino's, especially Las Vegas and spent the past three years in Arizona which they both truly enjoyed. She was known for her cooking abilities, her fondness for the Packers and enjoyed her work and was very respected among the physicians and her co-workers. Her true enjoyment came for the time she spent with her children and grandchildren.

Survivors include husband; Elmer R. Allen, Wausau, mother; Pat Tallmadge (friend Earl), Wausau, daughter; Jennifer Howells, Pensacola, FL, sons; Jason (Jennifer) Howells, Wausau, Elmer A. (Amy) Allen, Weston, grandchildren; Cailee A. Howells, Caden A. Allen, and Carter M. Howells, Sisters-in-law; Donna (Bob) Koepnick, Menominee Falls, Susy McKee, Grafton, Barbara (Clinton) Drake, Schofield, brothers-in-law; David (Barbara) Allen, Ringle, Daniel (Helen) Allen, Schofield, Dennis (Mary Ann) Allen, Spooner, Dick (Marge) Allen, IL, and was blessed with many nieces and nephews.

Preceded in death by her father Walter, sister; Julieann, sisters-in-law; Carmen (nee Allen) Bremer, Betty (nee Allen) Watters.

Services were held at Brainard Funeral Home, 522 Adams St. Wausau, WI with interment at Restlawn Memorial Park.

In lieu of flowers memorials may be given in Mary's name to Aspirus Health Foundation, Breast Health Fund at 425 Pine Ridge Blvd. Wausau, WI 54401. On-line condolences may be given at: www.brainardfuneral.com

BOMIA, Joseph E., age 59, of Belleville, May 19, 2008. Beloved husband of Betty. Dear father of Jimmy (Deann) Talanges, Cari Czarneski, Timothy (Nancy Henderson) Talanges. Dearest grandfather of Kevin, Devin, Timmy, Czackary, Kailyn, Samantha and Jimmy. He is also survived by his brother Patrick (Pat) Bomia, his sister Rosemary Diedrich, his nephew Kenny and his nieces Chelsie, Shawna and April. He was preceded in death by his parents William and Mary Bomia. Memorial service is Saturday, 11:00 AM at Belleville Presbyterian Church, 11900 Belleville Rd., Belleville, Michigan. Arrangements by Michigan Memorial Funeral Home, (next to Michigan Memorial Park) 30895 Huron River Dr., Huron Twp., (734) 783-2646.

WOZNAK, Raymond, age 80 of Romulus, formerly of Dearborn, died May 20, 2008. Loving husband of Agnes for 60 years. Dearest father of Thomas (Anne Marie), Richard (Donna) and Cindy (Dave) Mansfield. Brother of Edward (Lillian). Dear Grandfather of Carrie, Annette, Michael, Nick, Joey and Marie. A Funeral Mass was said at St Mary Catholic Church in Wayne with Fr Jack Baker officiating. Interment was at St Hedwig Memorial Gardens in Dearborn Heights. Final arrangements were entrusted to Harry J. Will Funeral Home, Wayne, MI.

LORENZ, Fred A. Jr., age 57 of Romulus, died May 23, 2008. Beloved husband of Rebecca "Becky" J. (Freeland) Lorenz. Dear father of Fred A. Lorenz III, Jennifer E. (Marc) Wolney, Sarah, E. (Jim) Harrison and Allyson E. (Jeremy) McDonald. Grandfather of Kathryn Wolney. Brother of Paulette (Ray) Dugan, Kathy (Edward) Tobin and Odette (Shawn) Ferguson. Fred was preceded in death by his parents, Fred A. Sr. and Kathryn L. (Madden) Lorenz. Uncle to 4 nieces and 1 nephew. Services were held at St. Mary Catholic Church, Wayne, MI. Interment was at Romulus Cemetery. Memorials may be sent to the American Cancer Society. Final arrangements were entrusted to Crane Funeral Home, Romulus, MI. www.cranefuneralhome.net

30. Help Wanted

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45. Adult Care

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59. Auctions

Notice is hereby given that on 6/18/08 at 3:00PM, the following will be sold by competitive bidding at:
The StorRoom Self Storage
40600 Michigan Ave.
Canton, MI
Space #415-Donna Bonds: Household goods, misc. goods; Space #421B-Russell Redmon: Household goods, misc. goods; Space #534-Todd Liberty: Household goods, recreational items, misc. goods; Space #613-Martin Pregitzer: Household goods, recreational items, misc. goods; Space #635-Mohammad F. Nazir: Household goods, recreational items, misc. goods; Space #849-Russell Redmon: Household goods, misc. goods; Space #911-Kimberly Nowak: Household goods, recreational items, misc. goods; Space #929-Charles Marshall: Household goods, recreational items, misc. goods; Space #934-Angela Scott: Household goods, recreational items, misc. goods; Space #939-Todd Liberty: Household goods, misc. goods; Space #1101-Laura Bell Looney: Household goods; Space #1110-Diana Chave: Tools

Notice is hereby given that on 6/18/08 at 2:00 PM, the following will be sold by competitive bidding at:

National Storage Center
39205 Ford Rd.
Westland, MI 48185

Unit #391-Marcus Loyd: Household goods; Unit #422-Bonnie R. Wilson: Household goods, misc. goods; Unit #443-Jennifer Brown: Household items, misc. goods; Unit #457-Jason Artman: Household goods; Unit #464-Wesley L. Clubb: Recreational items, household items, misc. goods; Unit #534-Chad Cummins: Recreational items, misc. goods.

Notice is hereby given that on 6/18/08 at 1:00 PM, the following will be sold by competitive bidding at:

Stor-N-Lock ASelf Storage
7840 N. Wayne Rd.
Westland, MI 48185

Unit #N1b-Talina Booker: Household and misc. goods; Unit #P24-Kelly L. Brunet: Household and misc. goods; Unit #F13-Ernest Hodgins: Household and misc. goods; Unit #B10-Michael L. Lee Sr.: Household and misc. goods; Unit #D13-Daniel Brewer: Household and misc. goods; Unit #H2C-Homer Moore: Household and misc. goods; Unit

61. Misc. Items

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For complete info: www.superauctions.com or 714-535-7000.

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Flexible move-in cost.
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WESTLAND
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2BR - \$550 & up
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Flexible move-in cost.
Professional local full-time management and service.
Office at 2365 S. Venoy.
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Duplexes for Rent
2BR - \$550 & up
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Sec. deposit req.
Flexible move-in cost
Updated & freshly painted, 1-1.5BA
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Congress can create more than 3,000 good jobs for Michigan by passing **H.R. 4115**. The legislation would result in the opening of a modest world-class casino resort in Romulus or Flint.

The bills are backed by Governor Jennifer Granholm, organized labor, Wayne County officials, Flint and Romulus voters, and many Democrats and Republicans ... including Michigan Reps. John Dingell and Candice Miller.

The \$270 million casino hotel would generate:

- More than 2,700 casino and hotel jobs
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- More than \$35 million a year in gaming revenues to the State of Michigan and local governments

WRITE AND CALL MICHIGAN'S MEMBERS OF CONGRESS TODAY!

Congressman Dingell and Congresswoman Miller are already strong supporters of the legislation. Please telephone and write the following U.S. House members from Michigan today. Respectfully urge them to create good jobs for Michigan and fight for passage of **H.R. 4115**.

Go to www.GoodJobsForMichigan.com or call the U.S. House members directly:

U.S. Rep. John Conyers, Jr.
Phone: (313) 961-5670

U.S. Rep. Joseph Knollenberg
Phone: (248) 851-1366

U.S. Rep. Carolyn Cheeks Kilpatrick
Phone: (734) 246-0780

U.S. Rep. Sander Levin
Phone: (248) 968-2025

U.S. Rep. Thaddeus McCotter
Phone: (734) 632-0314

U.S. Rep. Fred Upton
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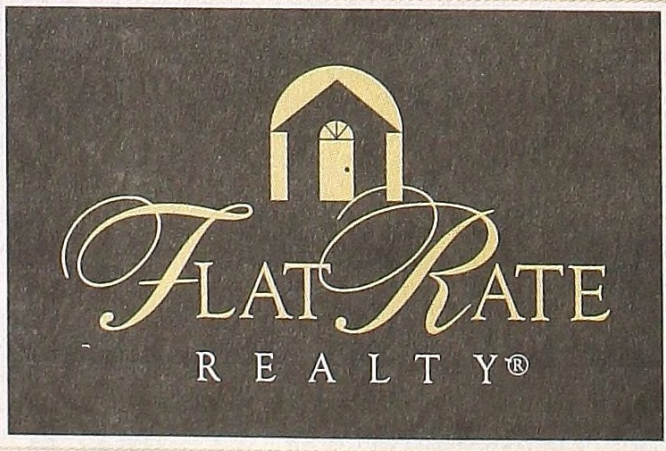
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